

REMARKS

I. Claim Amendments

Applicants cancelled claims 2-5, 10, 12, 14, 16, 19-23, 26-28, 31, 33-35, 37, 38, 40-42, 44-50, 53-57, 59, 61-91, 94-96, 99-102, 104-111, 113 and 115, without prejudice and with preservation of all rights to pursue the subject matter of such cancelled claims at any time. Applicants also amended several claims. The amendments do not introduce new matter insofar as they are supported by the specification, considered as a whole.

II. Request for Allowance

Applicants request an indication of allowance of all claims. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any of the claims are not patentable, Applicants would appreciate the courtesy of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel to resolve such issues in an expeditious manner.

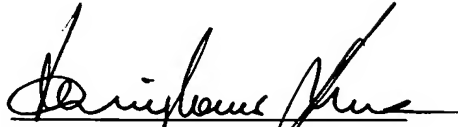
Authorization is hereby granted to charge or credit the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206 for any fees or overpayments related to the entry of this Amendment.

APPLN. No. TBA
PRELIMINARY AMDT. DATED JUNE 23, 2006
ATTORNEY DOCKET No.: 55320.000402

Respectfully submitted,

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